

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park
Minutes, July 21, 2021

Present: Dick Weidman, Don Gustafson, John Swanson, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Jim Perry, Lynn Zawojski, Rich Dirks, Doug Otopalik, Adele Douglass, Sara Stepanik, Curtis Dassow, Brynna Gruetzmacher

Meeting was held in shelter, first in-person gathering in many months.

The agenda was approved. (Dick/Susan)

The minutes from June were approved. (Jim/Don)

Park Report: Sara reported 27,100 visitors in June, a slight drop from 2020. The Nature Center is open, merchandise is being sold. Over the weekend of July 4, a few capacity closures were experienced. The trail ambassador program is underway, with 12 volunteers thus far. The fire pit is completed, but still needs a lockable cover. South Cave Point Drive has many pot holes, some of the repair may be funded by the WFB Homeowner's Association.

Treasurer's report: Julia reported a generous donation from Carl and Ruth Scholz. It was voted (Don/Jim) to apply this gift to the brachiopod trail project. Despite the pandemic closure, the fiscal year ended with a \$15,324 increase, about half of which comes from the kayak concession. Income for June was \$1,102.08. Expenditures were \$712.27. The balance in the checking account is \$35,557.37. \$31,698.97 (mostly for designated projects) is in the savings account.

Membership: Renewal notices were mailed/emailed in May, resulting in 4 new life memberships and a few donations. Susan is planning an end-of-July newsletter. She has email addresses for most members.

Doug asked about insurance liability for the kayak concession and was assured that the contract had been signed off on by a DNR attorney. He also asked about expanding membership. Susan has made an outreach effort to the WFB and Clark Lake Associations.

Candlelight Walk: This is now scheduled to coincide with the full moon, Aug. 21, 7:30 to 9 pm.

A new book store manager may be needed. John will contact a neighbor about this. Still on the topic of merchandise, there was a discussion of what we are offering; Susan recommended streamlining our inventory.

Don has noticed deer damage in the pollinator garden and will explore spray options.

It was voted (Dick/Jim) to approve \$217.19 for Brynna and the children's programs.

Next meeting, 18 August.

Adjourn at 5:05 (Jim/Julia).